

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES AND CELEBRATES HENRIETTA BACKER FOR HER SERVICE TO THE PRINCETON COMMUNITY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 23, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Henrietta Backer, known as Heny to friends and neighbors, for her service to the Princeton community.

More than 20 years ago, Heny Backer came to Princeton to visit her daughter at the university. The town was fortunate that day: she was so impressed that she and her husband, Bernie, decided to relocate there. Heny has since made an indelible mark on the Princeton community. Highly principled, she is an inspiration to those around her and has earned our heartfelt appreciation.

Heny Backer has served in many capacities on a number of community organizations, and in each case she has done so with fairness and a civic-minded spirit.

Her unending energy marked her tenure as a commissioner of the Housing Authority for the Borough of Princeton, where she sought to make affordable housing available to all who seek it.

Heny's commitment to finding fair, decent, peaceful solutions to the world's problems has made her one of the indispensable volunteers for the Coalition of Peace Action. Her leadership resulted in the borough's formal expression of disappointment in our country's decision to take preemptive action against Iraq.

Through her efforts, the Princeton Community Democratic Organization (PCDO) was reinvigorated. Under her leadership, the political dialogue of the community was elevated in substance and integrity. Due to her tireless dedication to addressing the many challenges our community faces in a fair and respectful manner, she was elected to serve as both the president of the PCDO and chair of the Princeton Municipal Democratic Committee. She continues to serve on both organizations today.

Heny Backer has contributed significantly to the life of her community and to the positive nature of its political dialogue. For me, Heny has been a source of good advice and good ideas for which I am ever grateful. She has earned our heartfelt appreciation for her efforts. I ask my colleagues to join me in giving her this recognition.

CONGRATULATING THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 23, 2004

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Maryland-National Capital Building Industry Association. Throughout its existence, the Association has worked to make the dream of independent homeownership for residents of Maryland and Washington, DC a reality.

Under the leadership of building industry pioneer Carl M. Freeman, the MNCBIA received its charter from the National Association of Homebuilders in 1954. And since its inception, the organization has remained true to its mission statement, which reads: "The Maryland-National Capital Building Industry Association (MNCBIA) is dedicated to organizing, influencing and improving economic growth and legislative, regulatory, social and educational opportunities for all segments of the building industry and the community it serves."

The MNCBIA is truly demonstrative of the diversity of its trade: The Association is comprised of more than 730 companies representing the interests of more than 18,000 employees of the residential development and building industries. Throughout its existence, the MNCBIA has worked to create an entrepreneurial environment in our area that encourages innovation and competition.

The Association should be strongly commended for its role in the regional economy. In addition to representing the homebuilding industry in local communities, Members are engaged in single and multifamily building, land development, remodeling, rehab and renovation and general light construction. Associate members are companies and individuals who provide materials, products, financing and many other services, including subcontracting, to builders and developers.

Mr. Speaker, because of the hard work of its members, the MNCBIA has contributed to a vibrant building sector in our metropolitan area, and boosted demand for goods and services from the building products industries and other sectors such as construction; consulting engineering, architecture and real estate law.

Successful relationships between the homebuilding industry and residents of Maryland and Washington, DC, are essential for smart growth and mutual satisfaction with the development process. The MNCBIA strives to foster open communication and understanding between these two groups.

The Association has also taken great care to protect the integrity and craftsmanship of the region's home and building designs by establishing the Annual Custom Builder Awards of Excellence, which recognizes local custom

builders and remodelers for excellence in construction, architecture, and design.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the Maryland-National Capital Building Industry Association for its numerous contributions to communities in Maryland and Washington, DC during the past 50 years. Housing means more than just a roof over your head: It signifies that you can provide for your family independently. I look forward to working with the Association in the future in its efforts to build safe, affordable homes for the citizens of Maryland and Washington, DC—so that those families can claim their part of the American dream.

HONORING RUBEN BURKS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 23, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of my hometown of Flint, MI, to honor a great man, Mr. Ruben Burks for his indefatigable service as past UAW Region 1C Secretary-Treasurer. On Thursday, February 19, 2004 the community will honor Mr. Ruben Burks during a special dinner to be held at the Mott Community College Prah Center ballroom, also located in my hometown of Flint, MI.

Ruben Burks was born August 23, 1933 in Louisiana. He relocated to Flint, MI in 1955, and gained employment with General Motors Corporation (GM) Fisher Body Plant 2 as an assembler. He also became a member of the UAW Local 598, during that same year. As a member of Local 598, Ruben held several leadership positions, such as shop committeeperson, alternate committeeperson, and executive board member. In 1970, former UAW President Walter Reuther appointed Ruben to the International Union staff in Region 1C. Region 1C serves UAW members of GM, independents, parts and supplier plants in 11 counties in south-central Michigan. In 1983 Ruben became the Assistance Director of Region 1C and remained in that position until 1989 when he was elected to the office of Regional Director, where he served a total of three terms. On June 24, 1998, Ruben was elected to the Union's second-highest office, Secretary-Treasurer of the UAW. Ruben maintained this position until retirement in 2002. During his tenure, Ruben was a strong leader in promoting economic development, he worked diligently to attract and keep good jobs in the Flint community. He was instrumental in the UAW-GM community health care initiative in Flint, which helped to improve the quality and accessibility of health care while at the same time making the health delivery system more cost efficient. Ruben has advocated over the years for the working family to ensure that their voices were heard among politicians and business leaders.

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